

to explore Sapsucker Woods. There was also a shuttle service run during the meeting to Sapsucker Woods. Visitors also inspected the bio-acoustical laboratory of Dr. Kellogg. Mid-week excursions were arranged to a number of places and the one to Montezuma was popular and successful. Besides the field trips, excursions were arranged before and after the meeting. Two of these, each of week in length, were made within the state. These were based on the Cornell University Biological Research Station at Shackleton Point on Oneida Lake. The excursions were organized by Dr. Swanson of Cornell University and several of the Syracuse birders served as local leaders. The itinerary was worked out by Miss Rusk and Dr. Spofford. Our guests, just over a dozen on each excursion, included Eric Hosking, the British bird photographer, Guy Mountford, Sir Landsborough Thompson, Dr. Niethammer, Rudebeck from Sweden, Brouwer from Holland and Schuz from Germany. The party visited Sandy Pond and Selkirk on the first day, Camillus Valley and Howland's Island on the next. Two days were spent in the Adirondacks, where we stayed at Covewood Lodge with Mr. and Mrs. Bowes. The Bowes lead bird trips to South America in the winter and run Covewood Lodge in the summer. They arranged a fine, and somewhat adventuresome, lake trip to see beavers and birds. These trips finished about midnight after having run aground. The last full day was spent in the Rome Sand Plains. Our total list for each week was about 130. Leading these excursions was great fun. The people were all experts in their own areas, but most of them had not been to North America before. We saw some twenty species of Wood Warblers, a purely new world family and several of another large new world family, the tyrant flycatchers. Some of the birds that impressed our visitors most were the Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Scarlet Tanager. Guy Mountford, who has clarified the range of many species in Europe, discovered a Tufted Titmouse in the central Adirondacks. Dr. Schuz stalking what he thought was a Pileated Woodpecker found that it was his fellow countryman, Dr. Niethammer tapping in an attempt to attract a woodpecker. All in all it was a most successful meeting; the next is to be held in England in 1966.

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CONSERVATION NEWS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

While the earth is still with us, conservationists are borrowing something from the stratagems of war to conduct a global rescue of vanishing species of birds and animals.

A "War room", resembling perhaps the hectic efficiency of some nuclear bombing command headquarters, is to be established in Switzerland. Instead of any orbiting missiles, the pins and flags probably stuck in the large-scale maps, would represent the Arabian Oryx, the Spanish Imperial Eagles, the African Rhinoceros, the California Condor and many more.

The proposed operations intelligence center, in which many organizations would participate, was described at the 13th international conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation held in New York City last June 1961. Thirty two nations were represented.

Eugene Eisenmann, former president of the Federation and currently a member of its conservation committee, was secretary of the American delegation headed by Roger Tory Peterson as chairman.

The world was like a much-lacerated patient being probed here and there by the ornithologists seeking to staunch the gushing out of its wildlife. They concurred on resolutions urging protection for areas throughout the globe, from the Congolese national parks in Africa, the Korean swamps where the Japanese cranes feed to the Antarctic where the delegates feared the effect on the "fragile" balance of nature of man's transformation of habitat and introduction of domestic species. One of the birds singled out for special study and attention if it is to survive was the Hawaiian Duck or Koloa.

The Council called for further implementation of the 1954 International Convention of the Pollution of the Sea by Waste Oil. It recommended that governments require scheduled and military aircraft to report oil slicks sighted at sea.

In view of the lethal consequence of pesticides on wildlife and the fact that little is known of the cumulative effects, the delegates requested governments to adopt legislation limiting applications to minimum effective concentrations. They supported continuing research to find control methods that would not harm vertebrates or beneficial insects.

The ornithologists asked for an end to all bounties for the destruction of birds, citing the "lamentable psychological effect" of this practice.

I could not help thinking, that while we in New York State have been alert to keep the Great Horned Owl on the protected list, Pennsylvania has been paying \$5 each for their carcasses. Dr. Stephen Eaton of St. Bonaventure University, recently brought our attention to a clipping from a "**New York State** newspaper" located near the Pennsylvania border and picturing a boy proudly displaying the owl he was being praised and paid for killing.

Actually this youngster was being put upon — derived of the fun of observing and studying this great bird in the wild. In part, the blame probably goes back to the schools. Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., curator of birds at the New York State Museum and President of the Alan Devoe Bird Club, declared at the recent Federation convention that the schools generally have not been including material showing the value of predator creatures. On the contrary, he pointed out, children have been getting the impression that some wild creatures are good and some are bad.

The delegates at the International Council meeting, citing the critical decrease in the numbers of many species of birds of prey, stressed the need for educational efforts, through films, pamphlets, etc., to combat the widespread erroneous concepts concerning these birds.

How helpful such material would have been in backing our Great Horned Owl fight this winter or the Golden Eagle effort. By way of report, Senate hearings on the eagle were held in June — these being brought about in great part through the work of the National Audubon Society, eagle expert John Alderman of New York City and Texas, and Senator Kenneth B. Keating, co-sponsor of the Senate bill. The member clubs and individuals of the Federation came through with a tremendous amount of support in their letters and making sure that there was effective representation at the hearings.

Who knows how much the increasing publicity concerning the vanishing species of the world may have been helpful in the progress made with the Golden Eagle this year?

These world-wide efforts may have important effect in dramatizing the conservation work. An example occurred in New York in June when Prince Phillip flew in from Canada at 6 o'clock one evening (at the controls of the plane himself) and was back at Idlewild Airport at eleven that same night for a commercial flight to England — but not before he had left reporters and photographers with plenty of material for the morning editions publicizing the launching of the one-million-dollar World Wildlife Fund at which he spoke during his brief stop-over.

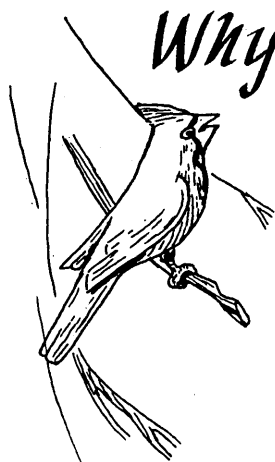
Attracting the participation of such newsworthy figures and engaging in adventurous rescue efforts — these international organizations can most easily win prime space and time in the big publicity media.

This publicity can help reorientate the public attitude so that perhaps in, we hope the not too distant future, we can count on even more public support when the Federation works to add, for example, the Kingfisher to the list of birds protected in New York (which the Federation at its convention approved doing) or for a club to gain preservation for a local habitat — like the Watkins-Montour Bird Club which is concerned with a 50-acre tract of woods and marsh near Odessa.

Besides a fine stand of Hemlock, there are deciduous trees and a bog luxuriating with fascinating plant life — orchids, sundews, winter berry holly, etc. All kinds of warblers and other birds flock there in spring, including Traill's and Olive-sided Flycatchers which have nested there together with Pileated Woodpeckers and Wood Ducks.

Who knows? Under a canopy of public opinion built up through the exciting conservation efforts continents away, perhaps the African Rhinoceros will have more to do with the Watkins-Montour Bird Club having these acres made into a sanctuary, than one would now suspect.

333 Bedell Street, Freeport, L. I.



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